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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Negative effects of sanctions against Iran, an obstacle in the way of achieving the MDG

The health situation of women and children in Iran:

In the past decade the Islamic Republic of Iran has made worthy improvements regarding the health and welfare of children and mothers. Iran has reached many of its mid decade health objectives (World Heads of States Conference for the Health of Children in 2000). In spite of the worthy successes that have been reached nationally, there are still general differences in the health indicators of provinces and different regions, unfortunately the unjust sanctions against Iran have prevented the country provinces to reach international indicators.

But we must consider that developing countries must run projects to response to their fundamental needs, promote health issues and making things safe, such as clean drinking water etc to be able to preserve the achievements gained at the end of development programs.

Projects that aim at achieving lasting improvements in women and children's conditions must consider the connection between the cause and effect of different factors, for example: if the safety of children is worked on without considering the need to improve the economic conditions of the household, the reduction of mortality rates of children will result in further financial problems which itself affects children's nourishment and increases the mortality rate or catching various diseases. Therefore it is better to consider issues in relations with each other and not in isolation.

Presently the fundamental debate is globalization and globalized thinking. How can we expect the international community to achieve global justice, global health and prevent poverty while people are facing injustices and cruelties that are results of sanctions imposed by countries against Iran. Because a country develops when there are no sanctions imposed on it and is able to have economic relations with other countries and import and export what it needs.

The World Health Organization has set itself 6 main duties:

1 – Guiding fundamental matters for health and participation in matters which require a joint activity.

2 –Planning research and encouragement to production and translation and publication of knowledge.

3 – Setting standards for promotion

4 – Reiteration of moral options and policies based on observations.

5 – Technical support, speeding of changes and organizational sustainable capacity building.

6 – Health situation and the assessment of its needs.

Alongside the duties that the World Health Organization is committed to, it also has commitments towards its member states that include targeted guidance of the World Health Organization in Iran (2010-2014):

1 – Improvement of justice and influential social factors on health

2 – Strengthening healthcare systems.

3 – Achieving all inclusive services and improvement of justice in the provision of care costs.

4 – Increase capacity for the Leader and government.

5 – Strengthening health safety.

6 – Management of population changes and epidemiology.

7 – Strengthening participation in development.

Now, in view of the commitments and guidance of the World Health Organization particularly its seventh commitment (strengthening participation in development) considering the unjust and foolish sanctions imposed on Iran for more than two decades, the question NGOs will ask is this: How can the Islamic Republic of Iran achieve its adopted policies?